

OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES

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DAILY AVERAGE FOR JULY 28,463LINES WORTH REMEMBERING.
Kindness is the golden chain by which so-
ciety is bound together.—GOETHE.

THE PRIMARY AS A FIXED INSTITUTION.

THE people of Oklahoma are participating in a state-wide primary today held for the purpose of selecting nominees for the several state, district and county offices to be filled at the November election. This would be an opportune time, therefore, for noting the operations of the system for choosing candidates, as we have adopted and detecting the imperfections of the same with a view to finding remedies therefor.

The primary system is not without its imperfections, as we all are aware. It imposes onerous financial burdens upon men offering themselves for public position, frequently fails of giving us the best material for official duty, and breeds a rati of mousers, panhandlers and bloodsuckers who are an outrage upon decent citizenship. It is also an item of no inconsiderable expense to the several counties of the state.

In consequence of these conditions we find a good many people who are beginning to inveigle strongly against the primary as a political institution and advocating a return to the convention system. They contend, and with good reason, too, in many particulars, that we could select better men for official life at a considerable saving of expense if the convention system was still in use.

But when we compare the evils of the convention system, as we have known it in the past, to the shortcomings of the primary, as the same have revealed themselves to date, it will be found that the argument in favor of the latter far outweigh all that may be said in behalf of its obit.

The primary, as an institution, represents the people's protest against the evils of bosses. Under the old convention system, often one man, invariably a self-appointed eunuch, dominated the entire procedure and gave us our nominees for office. Conditions grew so intolerable under this system that the rank and file of all the parties were in open revolt against the same and demanded a better method for choosing candidates for public position.

The primary is the outgrowth of this revolt. It is undeniably an imperfectly contrived system as it exists but is immeasurably more responsive to the public will than the obsolete convention system and we entertain not the least doubt that it has come to stay.

The Menace was menaced.

The Oklahoma City rich who went to Wisconsin resorts for the summer must grit their teeth when they read about our beautiful cool summer.

FARM PRODUCTS 20 YEARS AGO.

IN an issue of The Times last week under the head of items of twenty years ago, reference was made to quotations of grain and livestock that prevailed on the local market. Compared to present prices the figures of two decades ago appear pitiful.

The Times quoted wheat in July 1896, as being worth 45 cents a bushel. Today the same cereal is selling around 90 cents. Twenty years ago the farmer who brought a wagon load of corn to this city had to be satisfied with 21 cents a bushel, a price that today probably is viewed as being less than the cost of production. Today corn is selling at about 70 cents a bushel, or three times the price of those dark days of 1896.

When we look at the hog quotations of twenty years ago, we fancy ourselves partaking of prime breakfast bacon at values which now are asked for waste products of the hog, for porkers were selling on the local market at the depressing price of \$2.50 per hundred. Today the farmer who brings a car of fine hogs to this market gets a price right close to 10 cents a pound on the hoof.

While Oklahoma was a young country twenty years ago, with a sharp range of extensive area, the cattle industry had not reached a stage where fancy animals were produced, for beefs sold then as low as 2 cents a pound on the hoof. Today a rarer or high grade steers experts to get anywhere from 7 to 10 cents a pound on the hoof for the animals which he brings to the Oklahoma City stockyards, and he is not disappointed in his expectations.

If the present day farmer were forced to consider some of the prices of his products which prevailed in the creative stages of Oklahoma's development he would be measurably shocked.

Let's see—what's the election all about?

Now that the United States federal court has decided that the Appomattox must be returned to its rightful owners, the German prude crew who snaked her across the Atlantic must feel like the hunter who shot a cow when he was after moose.

HAVE YOU VOTED?

A FEW hours remain in which voters may cast ballots at the primary election. While it is assumed that all those who were in the city during the morning have registered their choice at the polling places, it may have overlooked the right to vote there is yet time, as the polls will be open until 7 o'clock.

Some voters may have arrived home during the afternoon. They are reminded that the casting of a ballot is a duty which they owe to themselves and their state and country. Many measures as well as candidates are to be voted upon and the time is short.

If you have not yet voted, you are urged to hasten to your precinct and indicate your preference of men and measures.

MUNICIPAL AMUSEMENTS

PROBLEMS of keeping a citizenship happy long have claimed the attention of municipal officials and students of welfare. Not all agree on methods, yet all are in accord that the people must have wholesome amusement and if the right kind of pleasure be not offered then the opposite kind attracts.

The Y. W. C. A. offers much to young women. The public library is a source of profit and pleasure. But these are not enough. Every young person craves amusement and if the right kind of pleasure be not offered then the opposite kind attracts.

Local dance halls have been popular among those who find a night half the night alone where amusement of this kind is available. Some effort has been offered against this recreation, and those who are affected usually await a decision wherein a substitute will be offered or conditions adopted so that there shall be no objection to public dance halls.

City officials have studied the question and have favored some kind of a supervision or censorship which will assure proper conditions that will protect all those who need protection. In this movement, many publicists are leading aid, to the end that puzzling situations may be remedied; that some cleansing process may be devised that will banish objectionable features and provide clean amusement and recreation.

The rich and the strong owe something to the poor and the weak. Persons of affluence are in position to surround themselves with the best in the amusement line. But what of the less fortunate?

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Assuredly yes.

It is found that municipal recreation places are not what they should be. Let us not merely condemn them and offer no substitute, but let us combine our forces and find something better to take their places.

Some years ago a leading church man suggested that billiard tables be placed in the Y. M. C. A. buildings. There was a vigorous protest when the churchmen railed. "The game is too gaudy, exciting, entertaining and cheap." It may have fallen into bad company by having been taken in and adopted by saloon keepers, but let's save the game, see that it is conducted in the right places and be able to set our boys when they play."

So it is today. The humble portion of our citizenship must have recreation. It is up to the broad thinker to invent an improvement which will be of benefit at the same time that it gives pleasure.

I am my brother's keeper.

Spinkling the streets of Chicago, it may not help the people on the north side get a little urge, but the first thing to do for the south side is to filter the stockyards aroma.

Quicker how much more companionable a man is during his last week on the old job.

SPEEDING UP THE ARTISANS.

WHEN one recalls the long years required to construct the state houses of New York and Pennsylvania it is refreshing to be advised of the speed being displayed by the artisans who are erecting Oklahoma's capitol.

It is barely two years since the corner stone was laid; six months more the legislative halls will be finished and Oklahoma's law makers can assemble in the state's own building. A few months later all state officials can move into the completed structure and have ample quarters in which to transact the public business. Hereafter cramped offices have made life annoying to public officers and those who constitute the clerical forces of the various departments, although parents have been quite willing to fill the state positions even though office accommodations were somewhat uninviting.

The completion of the capitol early in 1917 means that the state will save the rental now being paid for downtown offices. Taxpayers will be benefited and citizens will take pride in visiting a standard which is the property of the Commonwealth.

Add to the gallery of famous benefactors The Reichs Macklin The German executive of Captain Piratt.

TWO KINDS OF HEAT.

WHILE Chicago and some other northern cities are giving life toll to the heat waves, Oklahoma enjoys balmy breezes which temper the rays of the sun and make it possible for tired workers to enjoy refreshing sleep.

While it is true that one death from heat occurred on a train running into Oklahoma City, the victim was a cook in a dining car and suffered from the artificial heat which runs riot in a cooking range.

Oklahoma's natural heat is well-nigh harmless.

WHAT WAR MOVES MEAN

A LL munitions contracts which Great Britain has signed since the first of June contain the proviso that the contracts are subject to cancellation without further notice after the first of September.

Beginning today, in the thirty largest cities in Germany, the propagandists under the direction of the German chancery, headed by Prince von Wedel, launches a series of speeches to convince the German annexations that they gain very much. The plan is to impress Germany for peace.

Germany announced she was going to cut through the Verdun lines at all costs. After almost six months she can be said to have failed definitely.

The Anglo-French have put themselves in the same heat in the battle of the Somme. Premier Asquith, Georges, Lloyd George and General Haig for the British, Laffitte, Boisnard and Briand for the French have announced that all is staled in the present offensive which has been in progress a month. If winter finds the German front unbroken in France the big push will have failed.

In the foregoing paragraphs you have the background for a layman's opinion that the soldiers of Europe will not spend another year in the trenches.

The war's chief idea of the allied offensive is that the first of October will find them marching along, still in France, against stubborn German resistance.

The realization slowly is dawning in the German heart that a Prussianized Paris, Petrograd and London is out of the question. Germany knows it is going to fight the war out on the defensive.

Russia's mind is not so greedy for a battle as the leader of the reds to the death-pangs has left the foreign office. Italy is a half-hearted participant.

Britain and France are the ones to be placated. The Anglo-French are trying themselves out on the Somme. If the Germans are not turned out of France by November, it will be impossible to reach a decision before another summer.

Another winter of fighting would pall on bloodless France and dogged Britain. There would be much more willingness to accept a reasonable peace.

Great Britain already has quit talking about the partition of Germany. It is the first step in the mind changing process of the empire.—W. M. H.

Luke McLuke
--His Column

Advice.

"Play fair if fortune ever would land," said wise old Mr. Tettum. "Don't try to get the upper hand. Bowdalling from the bottom."

Huh!

"The ancients used to believe that the world was square," remarked the Old Fogey.

"Yes," replied the Grouch. "But that was before politics was invented."

Wuff!

"An awful noise in Ignatz Roads. He isn't worth a dime. He'd like to be a pig's foot, and he picked all the time."

Meat Brute.

"Isn't it strange that there are no female after-dinner speakers?" said Mrs. Gabb.

"Not at all," replied Mr. Gabb. "A woman tells all she knows before dinner is half over."

Giddap!

"Our ignorance often makes me grin. And England I would think. For where a man is 'taken in' He says he feels 'put out.'

Before the Wagon Arrived.

"I was just wondering," mused the Rummy, as he rested his arms on the bar.

"Wondering what?" asked the Barkeep.

"I was wondering if it would be proper to write a love letter to a woman who is attached," said the Rummy as he leaned for the door.

Oof!

"The man all alone at Mrs. Sale's As she goes down the hill She's going to a shanty town. And she's dressed to kill."

And then there is another. Dick. His name I do not know. The Ringer Theater he seeks. And calls it the Blue-

He's In Again.

He Can Join the Club's Regiment.

O. Hell tried to join the United States army at Wichita, Kansas, but was rejected because he wasn't tall enough. And, as he left the recruiting station he was heard to mention his own name.

Hooyah!

Our last issue off to Thomas Hooton. Whose wife his A bit coniferous.—W. M. T.

Home Casheer of Canal Dover, Ohio, has been nominated for Vice President of the Club on the Wet ticket.

Are You Sure It Wasn't a Flivver?

Walter Mathews took his girl buggy riding Sunday. The buggy rattled so much she couldn't hear what he had to say.—Logan (Ohio) Journal.

Our Joe Miller Contest.

"Billy Hopkins says the oldest joke is the one about the woman who went to the police and told them that she was afraid her husband had jumped into the river and wanted them to hunt for the body." "Well," replied the official, "in case we find the body, is there anything peculiar about your husband by which we could identify him?" "Yes," replied the woman. "He is deaf."

Oh, Joy!

Carrying Davis of Youngstown, Ohio, has been nominated as official canine catcher for the club.

Names Is Names.

Will Hammer travels for A. Pick & Co., of Chicago.

Our Daily Special.

When You Save Your Money You Save Your Best Friend.

Luke McLuke Says.

One good feature about the Grouch is that when he has an hour to spare he doesn't use it up bothering somebody who hasn't.

A lot of unnecessary laws have been enacted since we took this country away from the Indians. But the champion unnecessary law was the old Puritan statute that prohibited man from kissing his wife on Sunday.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who used to shine his tan shoes with banana peels?

No. Oswald. Married women do not spend all of their time in buying things. They spend part of it in taking things back and having them exchanged.

Every now and then you run into a girl who can't sing and who insists on proving the fact for your benefit.

Every time we see a man with a whole bald of all the tanned into one check we wish there was a law fixing the maximum size of a crew of tobacco.

A teacometrie is a pretty big repile. But you can get him into a whiskey bottle under certain conditions.

There are not many sure things in the world. But you can always bet that a man is not as important as he looks.

One reason why we haven't much use for war is because the men who start them never do any of the fighting.

We haven't much use for a bar. But a man should always lie to his wife when it will make her happy.

Ten dollars doesn't seem much mon-

ey when you have the ten. But it sure looks like a fortune when you haven't it and go out and try to borrow it.

Men are supposed to do the proposing. But there wouldn't be many marriages if the women waited for the men to do the proposing.

If the baby keeps on growing bigger as he grows bigger. Mother is always willing to admit that he looks like his father.

If the hole is located in the toe of her stocking a girl knows nobody can see it. But if it is located around the knee she feels sure that everybody can see it.

The Republican View

Edited by the Republican State Committee.

CRIPPLING AMERICAN COMMERCE.

IT is reported from Washington that this government will "protest" the notorious blacklisting of American firms by the British government and its allies, but officials at the nation's capital are quoted as saying they haven't much faith that the protest will be heeded. The British have utterly failed to make any concessions as regard American shipping to neutral countries, although their action is plainly in violation of international law, and it is regarded as very doubtful whether they will pay any attention to a protest over the new blacklist, so officials are quoted as saying.

In this latest outrage to American commerce it is stated, the British are not only blacklisting all American firms doing business with any firm in Germany or any of her allied countries, but are also putting the kibosh on American firms who do business in neutral countries with firms having German names.

And in the face of a plain case of high-handedness as notorious as the one just mentioned, it is announced in administration circles that a protest will be made, but it is doubtful if such protest will do any good.

The latest restriction on American commerce is the result of the pitifully weak and spineless policy which the administration has pursued toward Great Britain and her allies since the war began.

So long as the submarine controversy was in the foreground the government had a semi-legitimate excuse for not taking summary action with Great Britain, as it could say that a matter like mere commerce could not be considered so long as American lives were in danger.

But the settling of the submarine controversy has resulted only in a feeble protest to Great Britain, one to which nobody paid any attention, and the holding up of American commerce has been going on just the same.

Since the administration has permitted John Bull to walk all over it in the matter of holding up American commerce it is only natural for the British to believe that the blacklisting of American firms carrying on legitimate trade contrary to the interests of British trade, will be swallowed in the same meek manner. And at this particular time there seems little doubt but that it will be so swallowed.